



Submarine force marks first 100 years

By the Submarine Warfare Division (public affairs)

WASHINGTON (NNS)

— One hundred years ago on a sunny April day, American naval officials watched a submarine submerge and surface in the Potomac River between Fort Washington, Md., and Mount Vernon, Va.

Designed by John Holland, this submarine, the “Holland VI,” became the first successful U.S. submarine and inspired the powerful undersea fighting force that would contribute so much to the U.S. victory in World War II and play a prominent role in the outcome of the Cold War.

Submariners throughout the year 2000 will commemorate the centennial of the U.S. submarine force with local, regional and national ceremonies around the country.

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A view of the U.S. Navy Submarine Centennial exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, which opened to the public April 12. The exhibit commemorates 100 years of the U.S. submarine force and focuses on the Cold War period.
U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Tim Altevogt

CNO message honors Submarine Centennial

By the Chief of Naval Operations

WASHINGTON (NNS)

— [Editor's Note: The following is the text of a message, NAVADMIN 089/00 (DTG 072256Z APR 00), from Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jay L. Johnson, on the occasion of the Submarine Force's 100th birthday. It may be read or reprinted in conjunction with centennial events.]

As we celebrate the Submarine Force's 100th birthday, I would like each of us to take a moment to reflect on what the Submarine Force

has accomplished during the last century. Some items of note are: USS Holland (SS 1) commissioned in 1900; the force that brought devastation to the Japanese navy in World War II; the prominent role in the successful and peaceful conclusion of the Cold War; and the challenges and roles of the post-Cold War era. Our Submarine Force contributed prominently in making the 20th Century America's maritime century.

Many of the Navy's successes — both forward

deployed and at home — have been the direct result of the remarkable skill and dedication of the men and women of the Submarine Force. That dedication was evident during World War II where a Submarine Force of less than two percent of the total U.S. naval combat strength inflicted a staggering 55 percent of Japan's maritime losses. But our victory was not without cost — A cost tallied in lives. Fifty-two submarines — nearly one in five — and the 3,500 men who manned them

were lost and remain on eternal patrol — the highest combat casualty rate of any portion of America's World War II military.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of America's first submarine, one thing is certain: The Submarine Force's legacy of achievement will continue to play a vital role in the future success of the U.S. Navy. I am proud to be a part of this great Navy with you and I salute the world's greatest Submarine Force — past and present — for your service and sacrifice.

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Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig christened the centennial year by authorizing all U.S. submarines and submarine tenders to fly a submarine centennial flag in place of the traditional U.S. Navy Jack. This is the first time since 1775 that specific classes of ship are flying a special jack. The Submarine Centennial Jack honors the contribution of the many brave men and women who have served with and supported our submarine force in the last century.

The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History opened a Cold War era submarine exhibition April 12, entitled "Fast Attacks and Boomers: Submarines in the Cold War." The Smithsonian exhibition provides an interactive opportunity for the public to understand how submariners lived and what role they played in the Cold War.

Many commemorative centennial events are planned for local, regional and national observances. These events are sponsored by the Navy or by other groups including the

Submarine Centennial National Commemorative Committee, which represents the membership of the Naval Submarine League, SubVets of WWII, and U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.

On March 27, the U.S. Post Office (USPS) commemorated the anniversary by issuing a series of five stamps that represent major milestones in U.S. submarine development during the last 100 years. In a philatelic first, USPS included the stamps in a "prestige booklet" detailing the history of U.S. submarines.

In celebrating the submarine centennial, our Navy recognizes the enormous contributions of American submariners, their families and those involved with building and supporting our innovative submarines since the dawn of the 20th century. A quick review of the century of silent service:

In the early years, American submarine pioneers developed new submarines that improved markedly in size and capability. Diesel engines and many other improvements were incorporated and refined. In the 1930s, the U.S. Navy finally selected large 1,500-ton "fleet boats" as the optimum submarine design, developing an operational doctrine based upon long range independent reconnaissance and attack that would pay dividends during the Pacific War.

During World War II, our submarine force, comprising less than two percent of the U.S. Navy's fleet, wreaked havoc on Japanese maritime power. Submarines sank over 30 percent of the Japanese Navy including eight aircraft carriers, one battleship and 11 cruisers. More importantly, the



The forward control station aboard a typical U.S. Navy nuclear-powered submarine of the Cold War era, showing the ballast control panel, the helm and bow plane controls, is displayed as part of the Submarine Centennial exhibit now open to the public at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

U.S. Navy photo by Alan P. Goldstein

submarine force sank 2,400 Japanese merchant ships totaling 4.9 million tons — fully 60 percent of the empire's total merchant ship losses.

Such losses gutted Japanese industrial power and effectively eliminated the ability of the Japanese to sustain combat forces forward and replace combat losses of ships and aircraft. But such victory came with a heavy price. Of the 16,000 U.S. men serving in submarines during WWII, 3,506 submariners were lost. These men and the 52 submarines in which they served remain on Eternal Patrol.

From the 1950's on, the U.S. submarine force made impressive strides in capability, harnessing new technologies at a remarkable pace. Under the leadership of Adm. Hyman Rickover, submarine borne nuclear power was conceived and engineered into USS Nautilus (SSN 571) — creating the first true submarine. Aided by the "tear drop" hull design and advances in

submarine quieting, the nuclear-powered fast attack submarine (SSN) possessed the power, endurance and agility to become the premier anti-submarine warfare combatant. Under the direction of Vice Adm. William (Red) Raborn, the ballistic missile was combined with the nuclear-powered submarine to form the ultimate nuclear deterrent — the fleet ballistic missile submarine (SSBN).

In the 1970s, precision long-range conventional land attack from submarines became possible with the advent of the Tomahawk cruise missile. And in an important side role, submarines and the men that served on them also played a vital part in the expanding areas of Arctic exploration and undersea research.

Submarines played a key role in winning the Cold War, checking the Soviets in two ways. First, American SSBNs deterred nuclear war by

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Submarine builder, John Holland, delivered Holland VI to the Navy, April 11, 1900.

Osprey mishap kills 19 Marines

By Headquarters Marine Corps Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Nineteen Marines were killed April 8 when their MV-22 Osprey crashed while attempting to land at the Marana Airport, 15 miles northwest of Tucson, Ariz.

“The entire Marine Corps family grieves for the Marines we’ve lost in this tragedy and our thoughts and prayers go out to their families,” said Gen. James Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps. “We have sent an expert team to Arizona to quickly investigate the circumstances surrounding this mishap.”

Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig released the following statement, “Evaluating new equipment and training for war, like war itself,

puts life at risk. In peace and war, Marines accept that risk — it is a bond between us. In that spirit, we grieve today for our 19 lost Marines and embrace their families.”

The MV-22 was conducting a training mission in support of Operational Evaluation (OPEVAL) when it went down near Marana, Ariz. During the mission, the crew and Marines conducted Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) exercises as part of the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course, with Marines embarking and disembarking the aircraft. The mission was conducted at night, utilizing night vision goggles and forward-looking infrared radar to enhance night

operational capability.

OPEVAL is a test phase to determine the operational suitability of the aircraft for the Marine Corps. It began in October 1999 and is scheduled to conclude in June 2000.

To date, the four Ospreys involved in OPEVAL have completed more than 800 flight hours. During March, the OPEVAL aircraft flew nearly 140 flight hours, an average of 35 hours per aircraft.

The mishap aircraft was part of the Multi-service Operational Test Team, based at Patuxent River, Md., but was temporarily attached to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

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maintaining a survivable retaliatory strike capability against any nuclear attack on the United States. Secondly, American SSNs monitored the rapidly expanding Soviet Navy while conducting intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions. Moreover, worldwide operations by our fast attack submarines underscored American determination to defend our nation and allies from attack.

Submarine innovation continues in the post-Cold War security environment. Submarines transitioned to carrier battle group operations in the near shore environment with substantially greater roles in land attack and Special Operations Forces delivery and improved intelligence collection capabilities.

The innovative Virginia-class submarine now under construction is designed to dominate the littorals. New technologies and communications will increase the potential of the submarine’s mission to detect and respond to threats against American security. As we enter the new century, the U.S. submarine’s contribution to national security, second to none during its first century of silent service, will become more important in an era of global uncertainty.

For more information on America’s Submarine Centennial events planned this year and other information about submarines visit the Navy’s web site, <http://www.navy.mil> and click on the “Submarine Centennial” button.

“Blessing of the Fleet”



A quartet of honor guardsmen slowly marched carrying jugs of water “gathered from the seven seas and the Great Lakes” for the annual “Blessing of the Fleet” April 8 at the U.S. Navy Memorial and Heritage Center in Washington, D.C., heralding a new season of ceremonies and festivities. U.S. Navy photo by JO1 Joe Gunder

USS Hawaii submarine named

By Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) — Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig and Hawaii Sen. Daniel Akaka unveiled the image of the third Virginia-class submarine, USS Hawaii (SSN 776) April 8. The ceremony was held at Bowfin Submarine Memorial Park in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on the brink of the U.S. Navy's submarine centennial.

"Submariners are one of our greatest assets; so also are the people who appreciate and support them. Naming this submarine 'Hawaii' recognizes both groups — those brave men who have served here and the men and women who support them," Danzig said.

The submarine is being named to recognize the tremendous support the Navy has enjoyed from the people and state of Hawaii and in honor of the rich heritage of submarines in the Pacific. USS Hawaii, which will be 377 feet in length and displace over 7,800 tons when submerged, will have a crew of 134 men. USS Hawaii is projected to be commissioned in January 2007.

"Hawaii is proud to have a submarine named after its people, because Polynesians

were a seagoing people. It will be serving to protect our country in the Pacific and the same waters that our ancestors patrolled," said Akaka. "I just know that USS Hawaii will serve our country and the world well," he added.

Hawaii has been home to the first Pacific Fleet submarines since the early 1900s. In 1887, the Navy received exclusive rights to Wai Momi, meaning "water of pearl" when the Hawaiian monarch, King David Kalakaua, signed a treaty to allow a coaling station and repair facility at the harbor, thanks to its key strategic location. It wasn't until the Appropriations Act of May 13, 1908, that the Navy was

authorized to build a Naval Base at Pearl Harbor.

"It's a wonderful thing that the state of Hawaii is receiving a bit of homage and building on their rich legacy with the naming of USS Hawaii," said Rear Adm. Al Konetzni Jr., Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet commander.

"A submarine is a lot like the state of Hawaii. Both are serene and beautiful, quiet and peaceful, yet they are both vitally important to U.S. national security. Like the people of Hawaii, a submarine is very much a part of its environment, is respectful of it, yet uses it to great advantage," added Danzig.

The Virginia-class

submarine is the cornerstone of the force's future. The new Virginia-class boats will provide all the capability America needs today at an affordable price. Designed from the keel up with total ownership in mind, the Virginia-class development, procurement, and operating costs will be more than 30 percent less than that of USS Seawolf (SSN 21).

"Submarines and the USS Hawaii in particular, are the most cost effective and secure way to maintain coastal and national defense," said Konetzni. "USS Hawaii will offer platforms of technological marvel and will provide a superb deterrence for our nation."



Graphic by DM2 Galen Kickingwoman

Sailors' courage to be remembered during Midway Night

By CNO Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — America's Sailors around the world will commemorate the Navy's spectacular victory at the Battle of Midway again this year on June 4.

Though Midway Night events have been hosted by a growing number of Navy commands for several years, this year's commemoration marks the first time the Battle of Midway will be officially observed Navy-wide. Last year, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson announced that beginning with the 2000 observance, June 4 would become as significant as Oct. 13 — the Navy's birthday.

"Twice a year, we will pause as a Navy to reflect upon our proud heritage and to build in all hands a renewed awareness of our tradition and history," Johnson said.

The impact of the victory at Midway makes it the perfect symbol of the Navy's rich heritage, said Adm. Donald

Pilling, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, in a recent Navy-wide message, which provides an update on commemoration planning.

"Although we can identify equal acts of selflessness and bravery throughout our 224-year history, Midway is unique in that on the shoulders of the courageous Sailors who fought there, rested the fate of the Pacific and possibly the world," said Pilling.

According to Johnson, the lesson of Midway is that people make the difference. "Midway was won, not by superior numbers or American technology, but by the courage and tenacity of Sailors who fought an intense air and sea battle against overwhelming odds."

Commands will celebrate the 58th anniversary of the battle with "dining in" events, tours, and appropriate commemoration activities which should include spouses and veterans. Also, any events designed to inform and

educate both Sailors and civilians are encouraged.

"The Battle of Midway is a shining example of sacrifice, service before self, and a fitting vehicle through which to honor all who contributed to our Navy's proud heritage," said Pilling.

During the famous battle 58 years ago, the U.S. Navy sank four Japanese aircraft carriers and a heavy cruiser and downed 253 Japanese planes. The Americans lost one carrier, a destroyer and 150 aircraft. The losses so decimated the

Japanese fleet that it was never able to regain the offensive, turning the tide of the war in the Pacific.

The Naval Historical Center has added a Midway Night web page to its site <http://www.history.navy.mil>, which includes historical information, regional points of contact, and listings of Midway veterans groups.

NAVADMIN 068 (DTG 232323Z MAR 00) provides additional guidance for commands planning Midway-related events.

On Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's show:

- * The Navy's new FA-18 E/F Super Hornet tests out its sea legs for the first time aboard USS Abraham Lincoln;
- * Meet two proud Sailors stationed on one of only two sub tenders left in the Navy, USS Frank Cable (AS 40);
- * Corpsmen from clinics around the mid-Atlantic region test their rescue abilities in reality based scenarios during Traumathon 2000;
- * Naval Academy Prep School gives students a head start on becoming midshipmen.

Compiled on tape #2000-16, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

In naval history: April 14-15, 1986

Navy aircraft from USS America (CV 66) and USS Coral Sea (CV 43) attacked Libya in conjunction with U.S. Air Force aircraft as part of "Operation Eldorado Canyon." The attack was in response to Libya being linked to a terrorist bombing of a West Berlin discotheque that killed one American and injured 78 people.

Submarine Centennial history: April 20, 1964

USS Henry Clay (SSBN 625) launched a Polaris A-2 missile from the surface in the first demonstration that Polaris submarines could launch missiles from the surface as well as from beneath the ocean. Thirty minutes later the submarine launched another Polaris missile while submerged.

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Post your Armed Forces Day event on Defenselink

By the Navy News Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — A great opportunity to showcase the Navy and other military services is coming up on May 20 — Armed Forces Day.

If your unit or command is planning an event in conjunction with Armed Forces Day, a good way to get your message out is to post it to the Defenselink web site at <http://www.defenselink.mil/afd>. Just click on "register AFD event" and fill in the fields.

The Secretary of Defense announced the creation of Armed Forces Day on August

31, 1949, shortly after all of the armed forces united under one department, the Department of Defense. The intent of Armed Forces Day is to have a single-day celebration that expressed all of the armed services as a single department under the government. The other main reason is to educate civilians on what kind of jobs the military does and what role the military plays in civilian life.

Take advantage of this opportunity to put the word out about your celebration by logging on to Defenselink's web site today.